

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

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During the twelve years that I have been Canadian correspondent of the official organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which is published at Nashville, Tenn., I had often wished to visit our brethren in the sunny South, for my reading of their *Christian Advocates* and *Quarterly Review* had caused me to feel a deep interest in their progress as a part of the great Methodist family. Circumstances did not enable me to carry out my wishes until this year, when I attended the General Conference at Richmond. This city is one of more than ordinary interest. It is one of the oldest cities in America, and was a place of celebrity in Colonial times. Relics of those days abound.

The Capitol was erected more than one hundred years ago. It is a plain rectangular building, the beams of which were all hewn by the axe, as there were no saw-mills in those days, and the bricks were brought from England. The Capitol Square also contains the Governor's mansion, Stonewall Jackson's monument, and Washington's monument, which is one of the finest in the world. In other parts of the city are the old stone house which was Washington's headquarters; Libby prison, now a refinery, and the old slave house, the scene of so many broken hearts in the days of slavery.

I took the Pennsylvania Railway from Niagara Falls by way of Rochester and Canandaigua, and tarried at Baltimore and Washington one day each. At the former I was pleased to find the famous revivalists, Sam Jones and his colleague, carrying on evangelistic services. I attended three of their services, with all of which I was more than pleased. At Washington I renewed acquaintance with Dr.

Newman, to whom I was indebted for many courtesies. At the railway station, the spot is marked by a star on which President Garfield was standing when he was shot by the miscreant Guiteau.

As the train proceeded to Richmond, Fredericksburgh was seen, which was one of the battle-fields during the civil war. A gentleman sat near me who was present on that occasion, and pointed out the positions occupied by the various corps, and when we saw the house in which Stonewall Jackson died soon after he was carried from the field, his eyes were filled with tears. "Jackson, sir," said he, "was a grand man."

Methodism was planted in Virginia at an early date, by a model missionary, Robert Williams, whose grave is unknown. Bishop Asbury was a frequent visitor to old Virginia and witnessed extensive revivals during his sojourn. About seventy years ago the pioneer Bishop preached his last sermon at Richmond. He was then very feeble, and had to be carried to the pulpit, where he sat on a chair and told the people the way of salvation. The names of Jesse Lee, who introduced Methodism into New England, and William McKendree, the associate Bishop with Asbury, will ever be conspicuous in the annals of Methodism in Virginia.

Prior to 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church extended over the whole of the United States, but owing to the fact that Bishop Andrew had become a slave owner by marriage, a large number of the delegates of the said Conference were of opinion that he should not exercise the functions of Bishop until the disability should cease. This led to a separation, and henceforth those portions of the Church south